

Application No. 09/425,436

AMENDMENT E AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION dated January 25, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 25, 2005

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled.
2. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel comprising a pan and a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having a generally convex upper surface and a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob assembly on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel, wherein said knob assembly includes a whistle body that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates selectively both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable the whistle body.
3. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 2 wherein said knob assembly further includes a knob body attached to said lid, and a vapor discharge aperture communicating with said whistle body through which

vapor from the whistle body is discharged, and wherein said dual function notch is movable between a whistle-enabling position in which said notch is aligned with said vapor discharge aperture to permit discharge of vapor therethrough, and a range of whistle-disabling positions in which said notch is not aligned with said discharge aperture, such that said movable member inhibits discharge of vapor therethrough.

4. (Original) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 3 wherein said knob body includes a retaining member, and wherein said notch is movable between a release position in which it is aligned with said retaining member and in which said movable member may be removed from said knob body, and a retained position in which said notch is not aligned with said retaining member, and said retaining member prevents removal of said movable member from said knob body.

5. (Original) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 4 wherein said movable member is rotatable.

6. (Original) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said thermometer is fixedly attached to said movable member.

7. Canceled.

8. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly comprising a lid with an upper surface and a knob assembly on said upper surface of said lid, said knob assembly including a whistle and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates selectively both as a release to

selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable said whistle.

9. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 8 wherein said upper surface of said lid is generally convex and said lid includes a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim.

10. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 8 wherein said lid assembly includes an aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further including a thermometer extending through said aperture.

11. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 10 wherein said thermometer includes a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above said rim.

12. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 8 wherein said knob assembly includes a knob body attached to said lid, a whistle body of said whistle that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a vapor discharge aperture communicating with said whistle body through which vapor from the whistle body is discharged, and wherein said dual function notch is movable between a whistle-enabling position in which said notch is aligned with said vapor discharge aperture to permit discharge of vapor therethrough, and a range of whistle-disabling positions in

which said notch is not aligned with said discharge aperture, such that said movable member inhibits discharge of vapor therethrough.

13. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein said knob body includes a retaining member, and wherein said notch is movable between a release position in which it is aligned with said retaining member and in which said movable member may be removed from said knob body, and a retained position in which said notch is not aligned with said retaining member, and said retaining member prevents removal of said movable member from said knob body.

14. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 13 wherein said movable member is rotatable.

15. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel assembly comprising a pan, a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having a generally convex upper surface and a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob assembly on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said knob assembly including a whistle body that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable the whistle.

16. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 15 wherein said knob assembly further includes a knob body attached to said lid, and a vapor discharge aperture communicating with said whistle body through which vapor from the whistle body is discharged, and wherein said dual function notch is movable between a whistle-enabling position in which said notch is aligned with said vapor discharge aperture to permit discharge of vapor therethrough, and a range of whistle-disabling positions in which said notch is not aligned with said discharge aperture, such that said movable member inhibits discharge of vapor therethrough.

17. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 16 wherein said knob body includes a retaining member, and wherein said notch is movable between a release position in which it is aligned with said retaining member and in which said movable member may be removed from said knob body, and a retained position in which said notch is not aligned with said retaining member, and said retaining member prevents removal of said movable member from said knob body.

18. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 17 wherein said movable member is rotatable.

19. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 18 wherein said thermometer is fixedly attached to said movable member.

20. (Previously presented) Waterless cookware comprising a cooking vessel suitable for use in stove top waterless cooking applications comprising a pan and a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having an upper surface and a lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob body on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob body and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel, said thermometer being rapidly responsive to temperature changes within the cooking vessel, and being removable from said knob body by lifting the thermometer therefrom to facilitate cleaning.

21. (Currently amended) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 20 wherein said probe comprises a thin-walled, hollow tubular structure, said bottom end containing ~~[[a]]~~ the temperature sensing device communicating with the ~~gauge~~ display.

22. (Previously presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 20 wherein said lid assembly further comprises a holder that is removable from the lid for supporting said thermometer and a retaining member on the lid that selectively retains the thermometer thereon.

23. (Previously presented) A method of waterless cooking comprising placing one or more food items with little or no additional water in a cooking pan having a bottom wall, at least one side wall, and a removable lid assembly, said lid

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assembly comprising a lid having an upper surface and a rim, and having a knob assembly on said upper surface and said lid assembly having at least one aperture in the lid and at least one vent therethrough, and a thermometer including a probe extending downward to through said aperture and a temperature display, said probe having a lower end disposed slightly above the elevation of the rim of the lid;

applying heat to the bottom of the pan;

measuring temperature with said probe, said probe having a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said pan, above all of said food items to measure temperature between said food items and said lid assembly; and

when the temperature in the pan reaches a predetermined point, closing the vent and reducing the rate at which heat is supplied to the pan to cook the food items at low temperatures and pressures.